Abstract of the Disclosure

The use of hydroxystilbene compounds of formula

(1)
$$A-CH$$
 CH
 R_1 , wherein

A is a radical of formula (1a)

formula (1b)
$$R_4$$
 R_5 ; and

 $R_1,\ R_2,\ R_3,\ R_4\ \text{and}\ R_5\ \text{are each independently of the others hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy,} \\ C_1-C_{16}\text{alkyl},\ C_1-C_{16}\text{alkoxy, phenyl};\ C_1-C_3\text{phenylalkyl};\ C_6-C_{10}\text{aryloxy, amino, mono-} \\ C_1-C_5\text{alkylamino, di-}C_1-C_5\text{alkylamino, or -NO}_2;$

as microbicidal active ingredients is described.

The compounds exhibit a pronounced action against pathogenic gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria, and also against yeasts and moulds. They are therefore suitable for the antimicrobial treatment, especially the preservation and disinfection, of surfaces.